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# LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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## **LDAD Warns New DOJ-Linked Fund Raises Serious Accountability and Ethics Concerns** *Organization calls for public scrutiny and oversight*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) issued a public [Action Alert](#) warning that a newly announced Department of Justice-linked fund raises serious concerns about transparency, political favoritism, and the misuse of taxpayer dollars.

The alert follows reports that the President and the Department of Justice moved to dismiss the President’s \$10 billion lawsuit against the IRS while simultaneously creating a \$1.776 billion fund that critics say could operate without public accountability.

LDAD argues that the arrangement risks creating a system in which taxpayer dollars could benefit politically connected individuals and organizations without adequate oversight.

“The Department of Justice is supposed to serve the public and uphold the rule of law — not function as a vehicle for political patronage,” said Lauren Stiller Rikleen, Executive Director of Lawyers Defending American Democracy. “When public institutions appear to reward political loyalty rather than operate transparently and independently, it undermines public trust in government itself.”

In its Action Alert, LDAD describes the fund as part of a broader erosion of institutional safeguards and argues that independent oversight mechanisms exist precisely to prevent public resources from being used for political purposes.

The organization is calling on lawmakers, watchdog groups, and the public to demand greater transparency regarding how the fund will operate, who will benefit from it, and what oversight mechanisms will govern its use.

### **Why This Matters Now**

LDAD says the controversy comes at a moment of heightened public concern about executive power, political accountability, and the independence of federal institutions. The organization argues that public confidence in democratic institutions depends on transparent guardrails that prevent political favoritism and ensure taxpayer dollars are used in the public interest.

“This is about more than one fund,” Rikleen said. “It is about whether the institutions designed to protect the public interest are operating independently and transparently — or whether they are being reshaped to reward political allies and punish critics.”

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*Lawyers Defending American Democracy is a nonpartisan organization of lawyers, former judges, scholars, and legal leaders working to defend democratic institutions, the rule of law, and constitutional governance. For further information about LDAD, see <https://ldad.org/>*